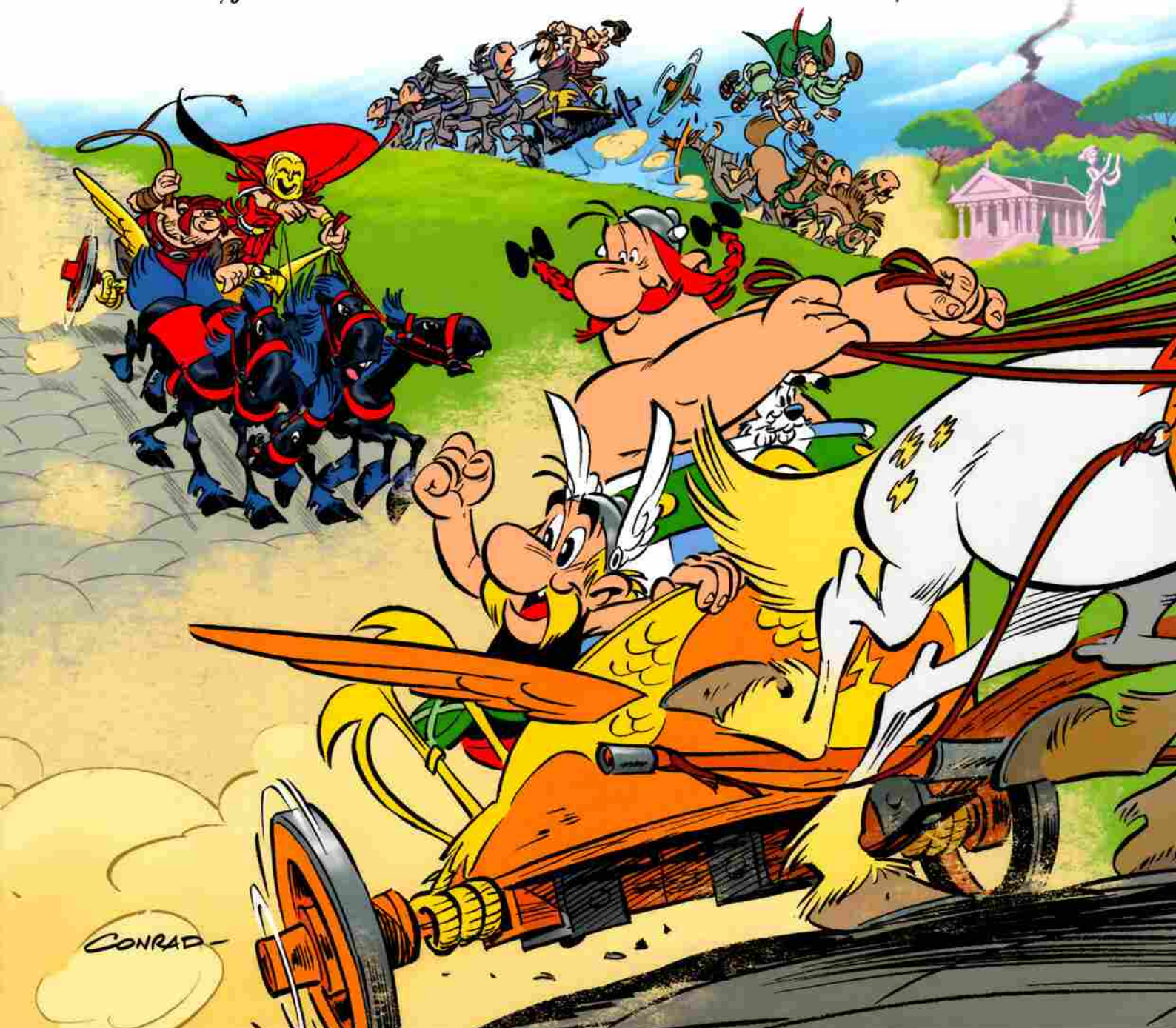


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix AND THE **CHARIOT RACE**

Written by Jean-Yves FERRI

Illustrated by Didier CONRAD



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE CHARIOT RACE

Written by JEAN-YVES FERRI

Illustrated by DIDIER CONRAD

Translated by ADRIANA HUNTER

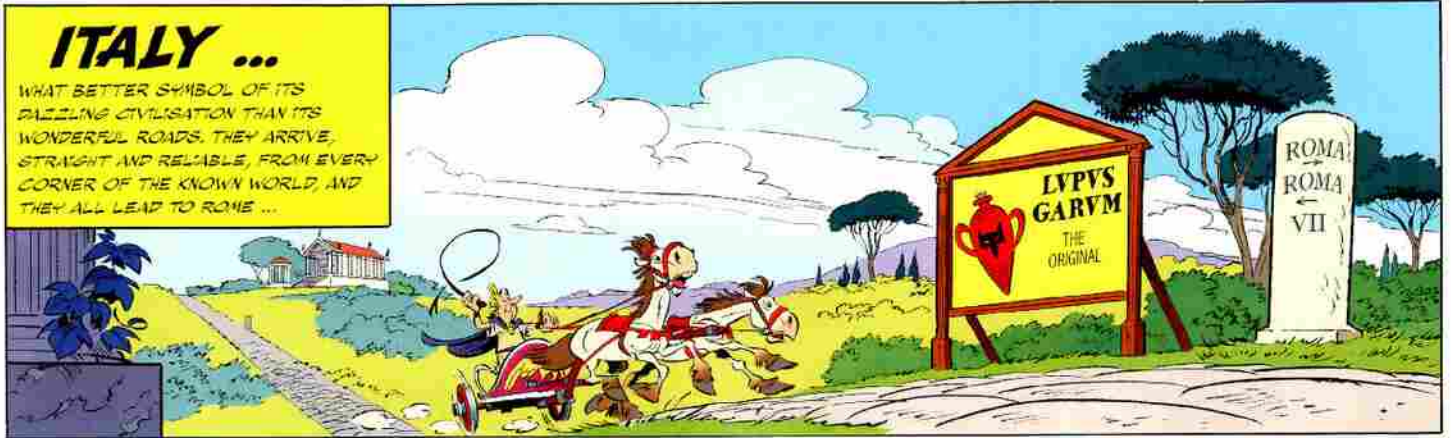


Colour by THIERRY MÉBARKI

Orion

ITALY ...

WHAT BETTER SYMBOL OF ITS
DIZZILING CIVILISATION THAN ITS
WONDERFUL ROADS. THEY ARRIVE,
STRAIGHT AND RELIABLE, FROM EVERY
CORNER OF THE KNOWN WORLD, AND
THEY ALL LEAD TO ROME ...



IN ROME,
SOME TIME
LATER ...

POTHOLES, PRECISELY!
WHICH IS WHY

I HAVE A DREAM!

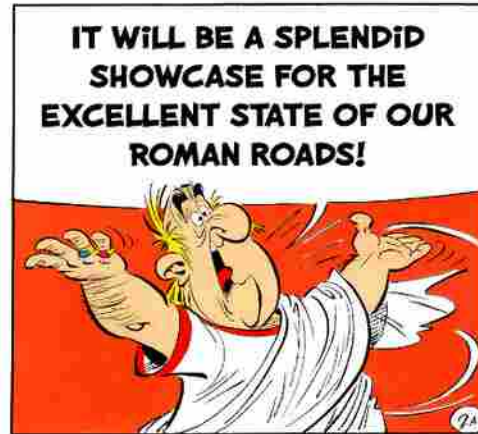
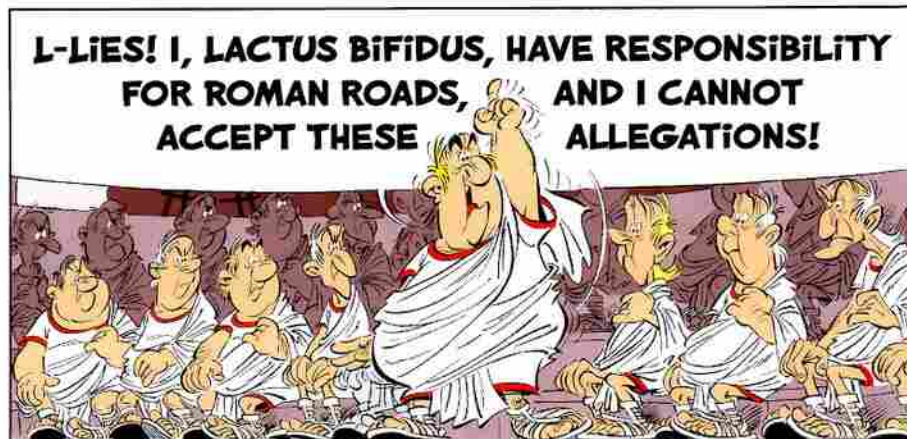


I HAVE A DREAM THAT PUBLIC FUNDS SHALL GO TOWARDS
MAINTAINING OUR ROMAN ROADS AND NOT INTO FUNDING
SENATOR LACTUS BIFIDUS'S ORGIES.

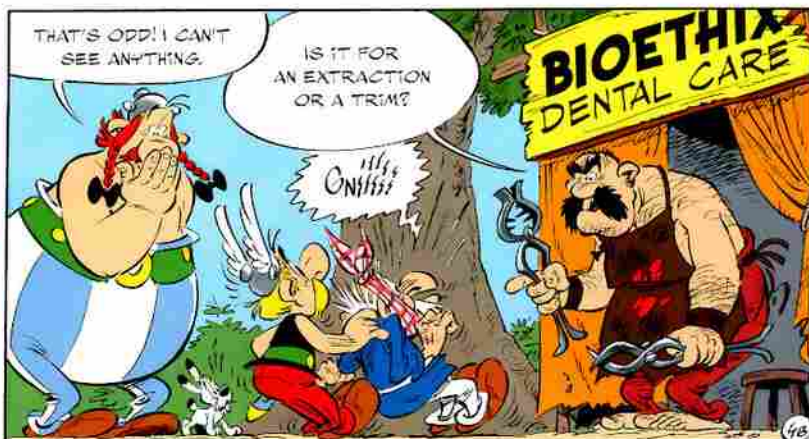


PSSST, BIFIDUS!
WAKE UP, THIS IS
ABOUT YOU!

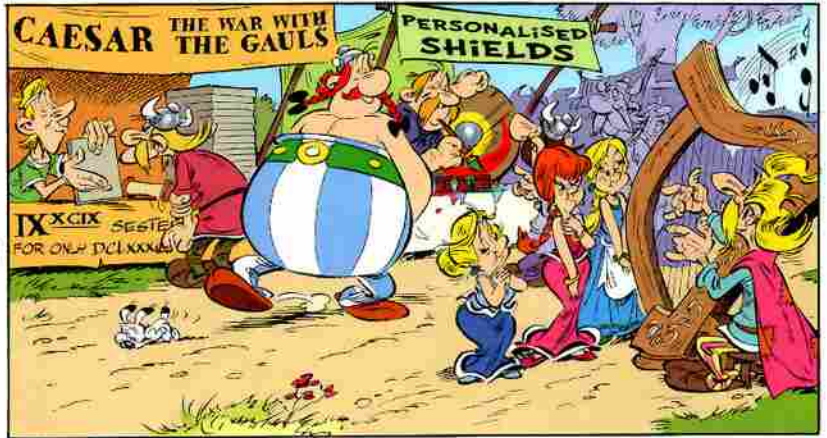
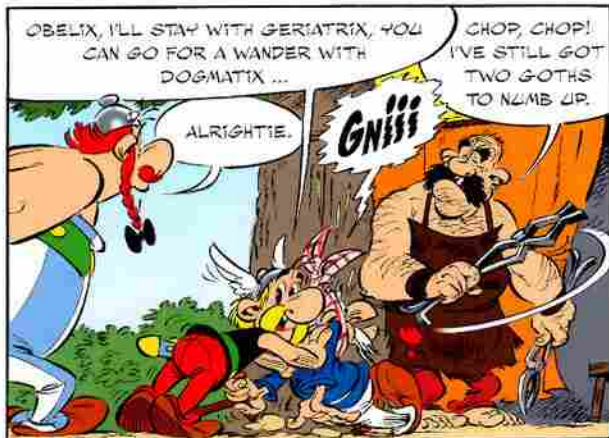




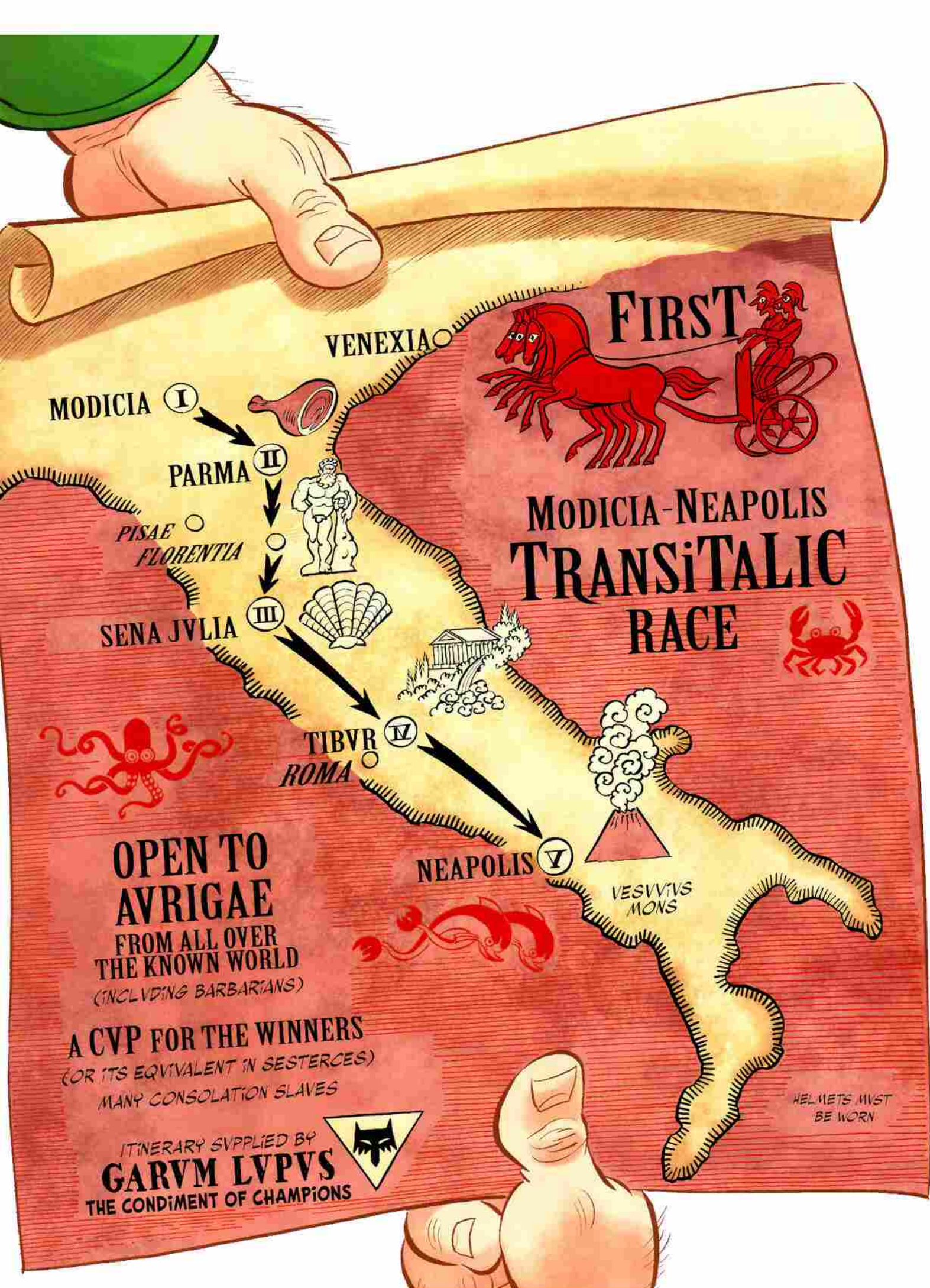




* A CHARIOTEER







FIRST

**MODICIA-NEAPOLIS
TRANSITALIC
RACE**

MODICIA **I**

PARMA **II**

SENA JVLIA **III**

TIBVR
ROMA **IV**

NEAPOLIS **V**

VESVVVS
MONS

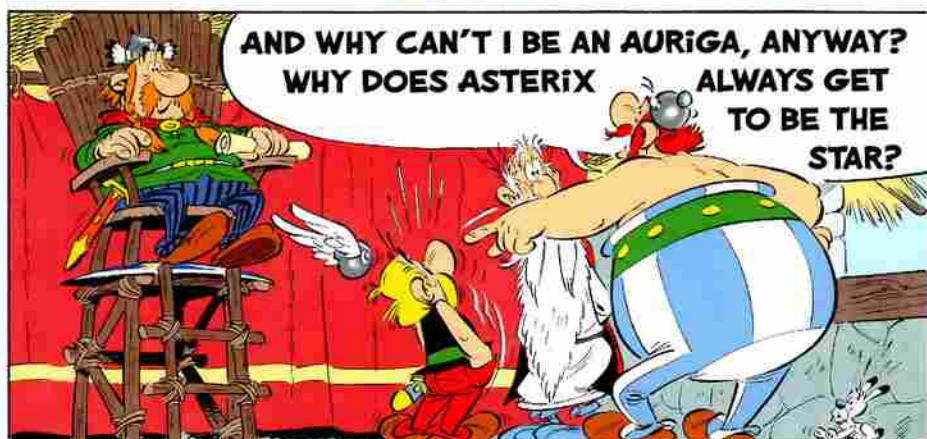
**OPEN TO
AVRIGAE
FROM ALL OVER
THE KNOWN WORLD
(INCLUDING BARBARIANS)**

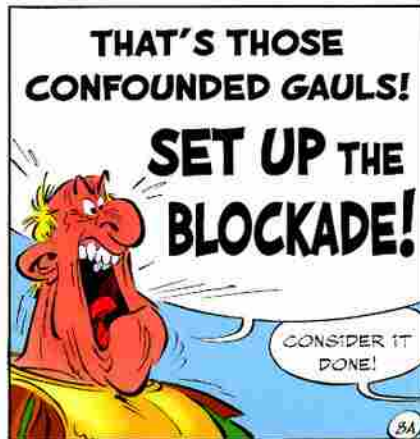
A CVP FOR THE WINNERS
(OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN SESTERCES)
MANY CONSOLATION SLAVES

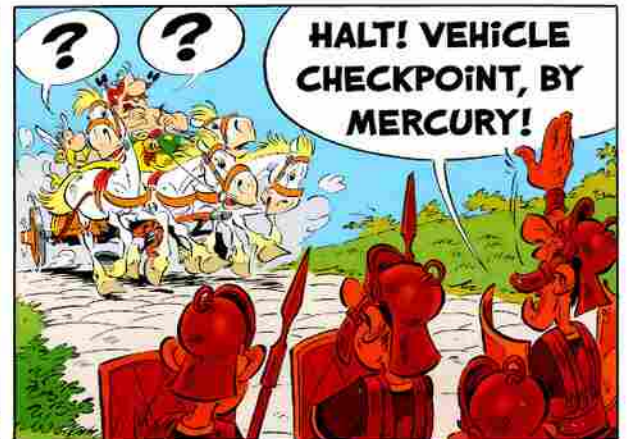
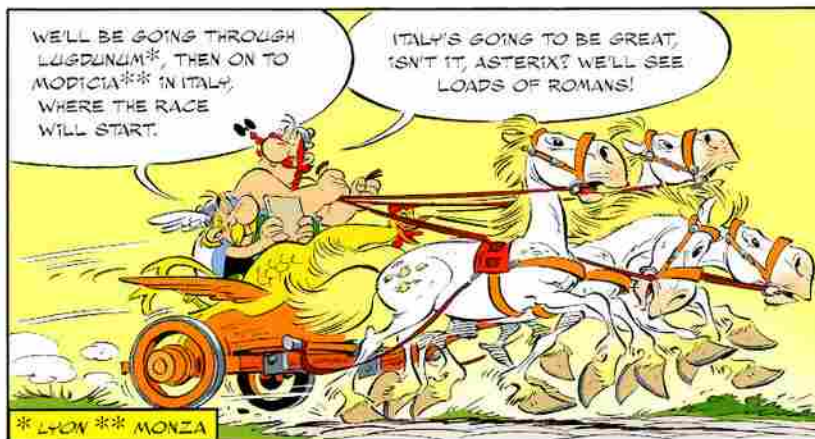
ITINERARY SUPPLIED BY
GARVM LVPVS
THE CONDIMENT OF CHAMPIONS

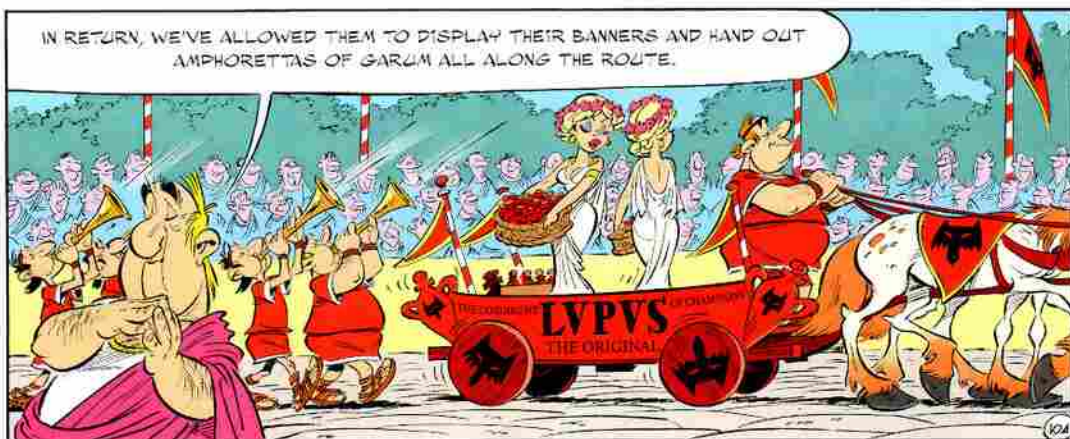
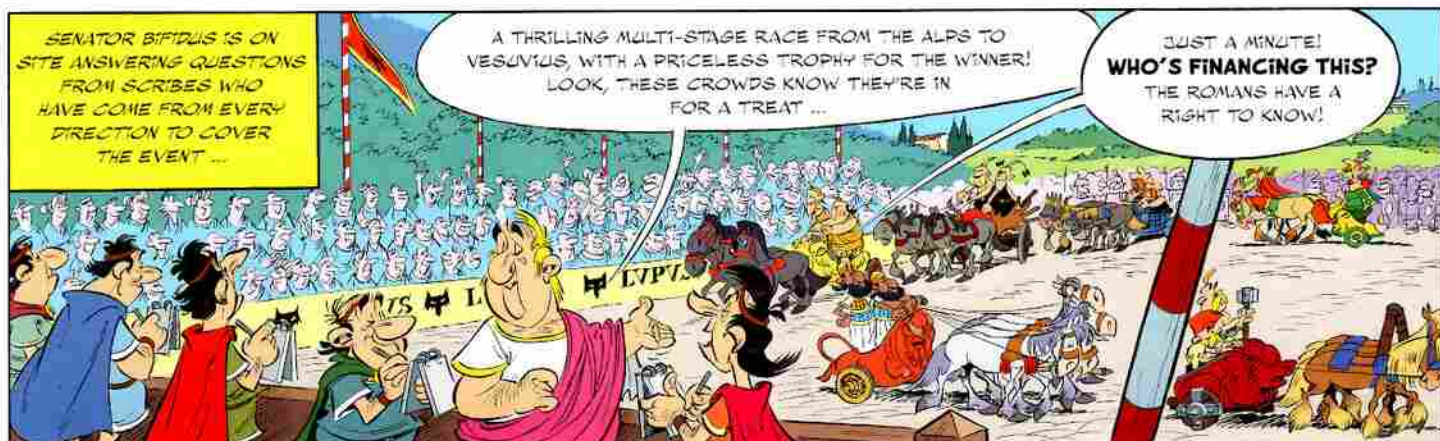


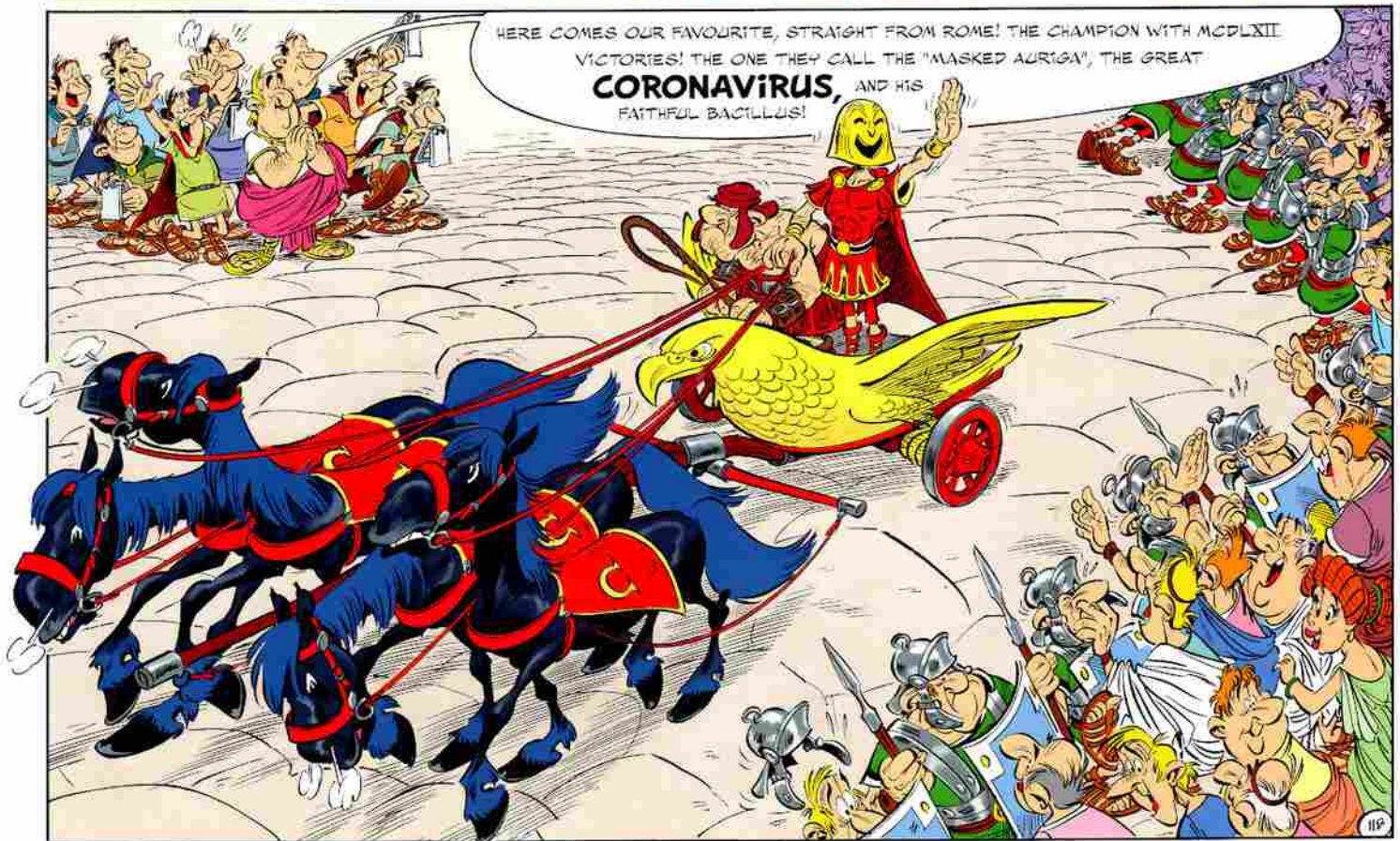
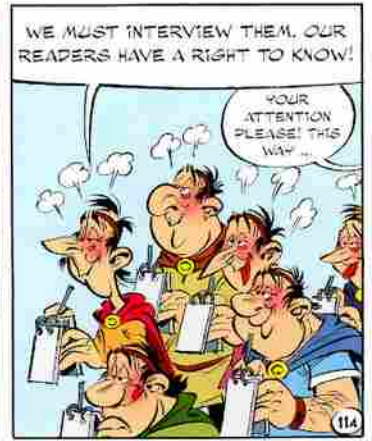
HELMETS MUST
BE WORN











IN THE NAME OF JULIUS CAESAR AND WITH
 GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP FROM LUPUS
 GARUM, I, BIFIDUS, PRONOUNCE ... UM ...

"THE GREAT
 TRANSITALIC
 RACE
 OPEN."

... PRONOUNCE THE
 GREAT TRANSITALIC
 RACE OPEN!

LVPVS

THE CONDIMENT
 OF CHAMPIONS

CORONAVIRUS CORONAVIRUS CORONAVIRUS



LOOKS LIKE IT'S
 ALL ABOUT THAT
 ROMAN!

WELL, WHAT DO
 YOU EXPECT?

HE'S GOT A NICE
 SMILE.

IT'S A
 MASK,
 OBELIX!

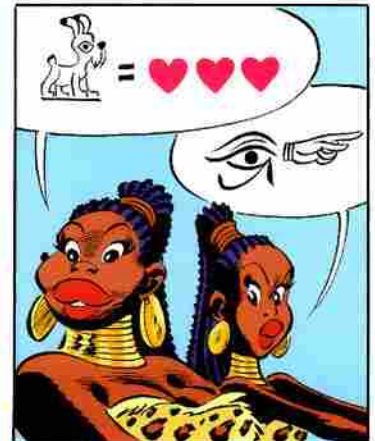
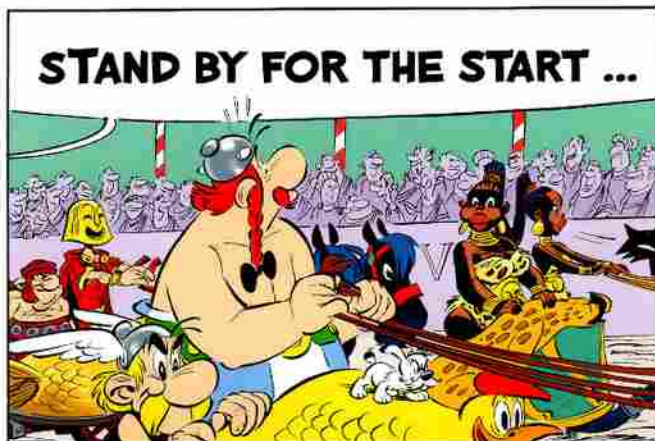
THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE
 THE TRANSITALIC CUP, A
 SYMBOL OF OUR GLORIOUS,
 FAR-REACHING
 ROMAN ROADS ...

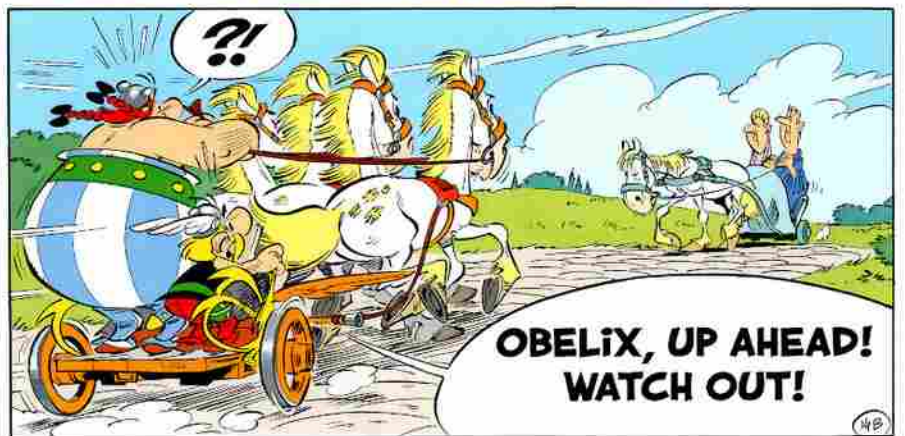
... OR ITS
 EQUIVALENT
 IN SESTER

... OR ITS
 EQUIVALENT IN
 SESTERCES!!!

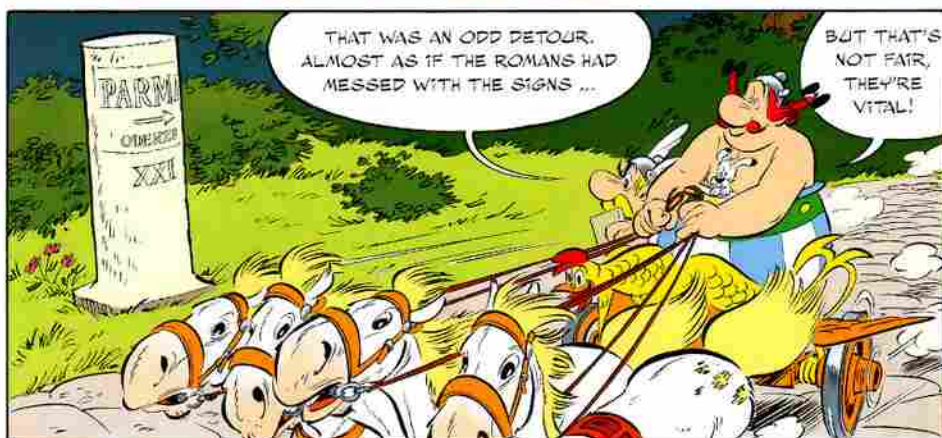
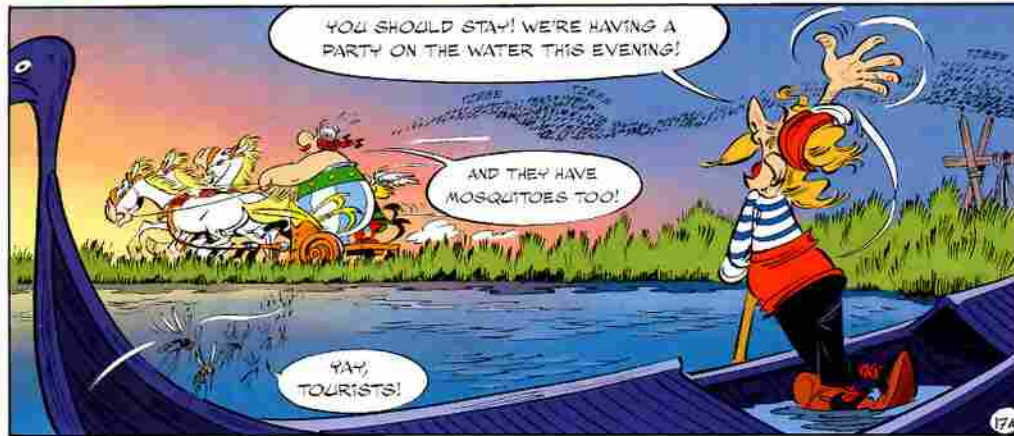
HEHE! WE'RE HERE
 FOR THE EQUIVALENT,
 MY BOY!

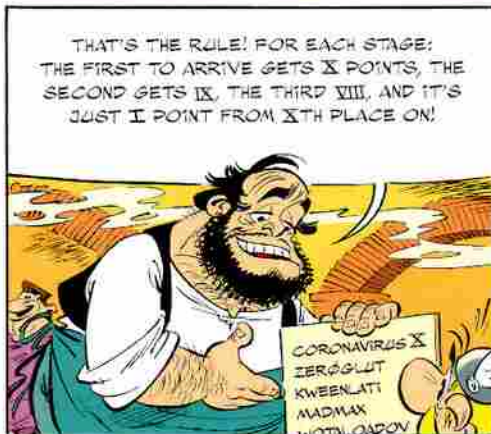


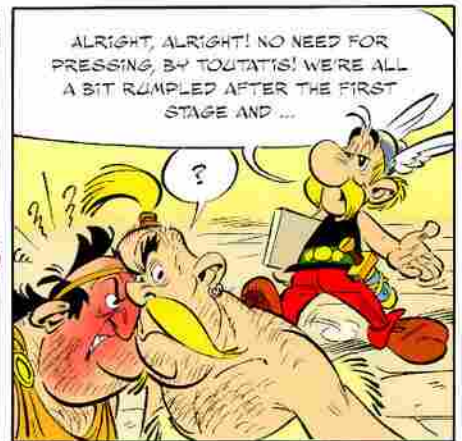


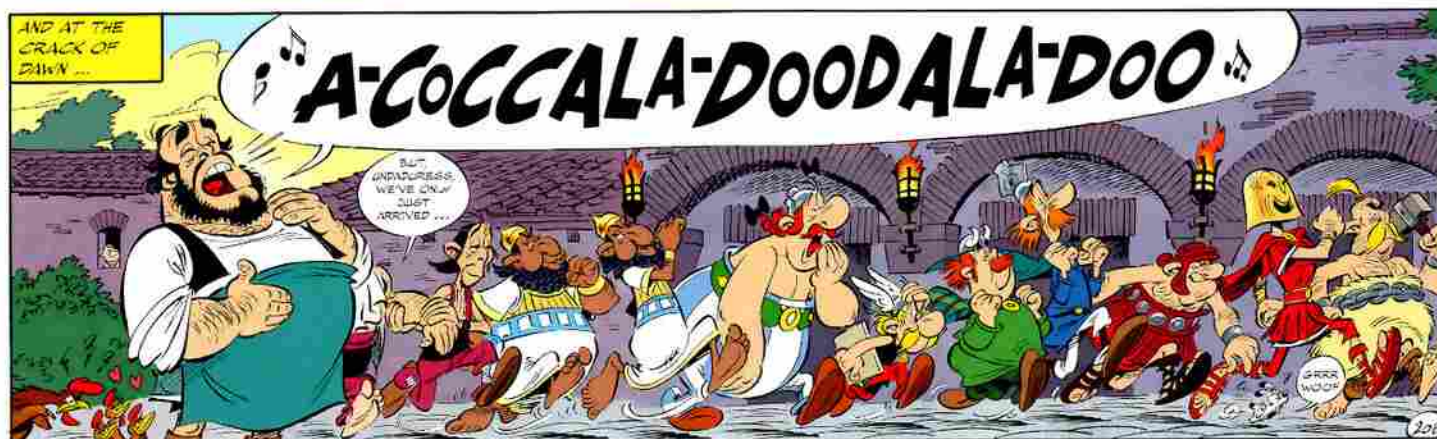


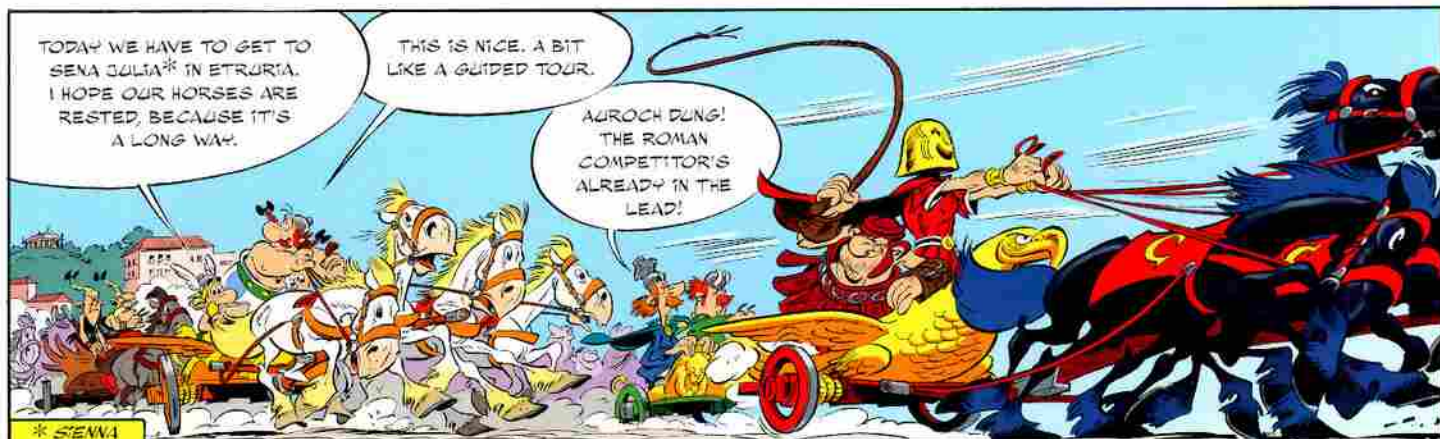




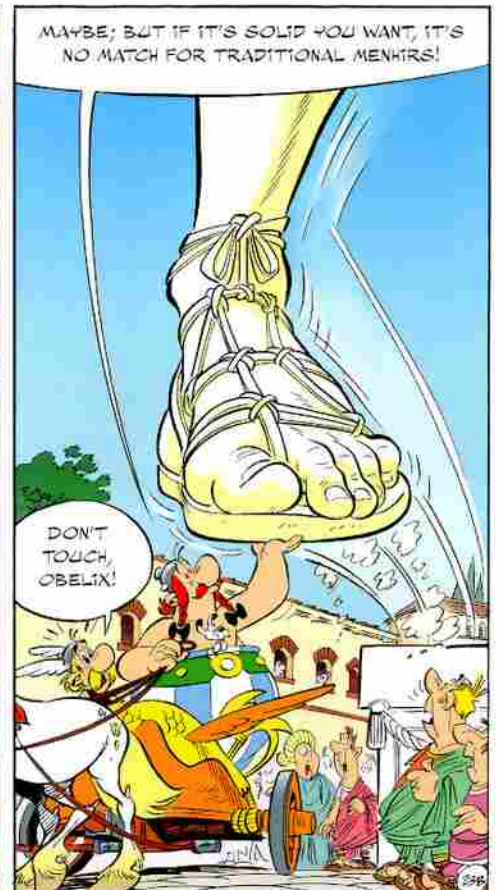
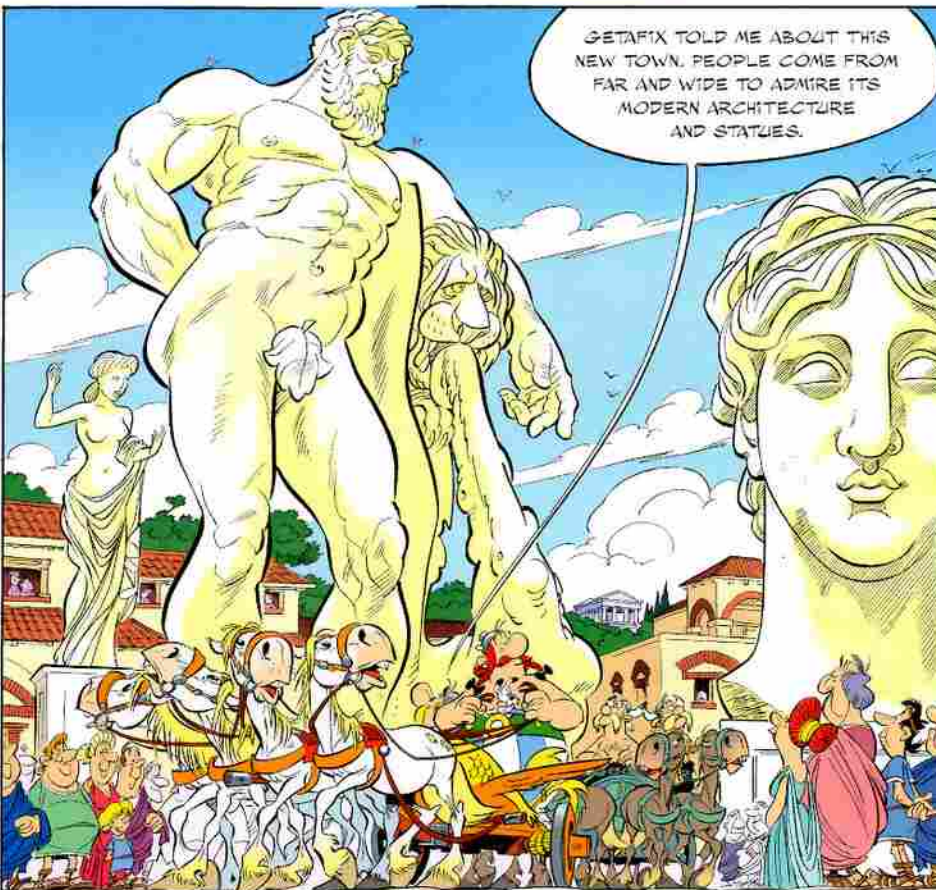


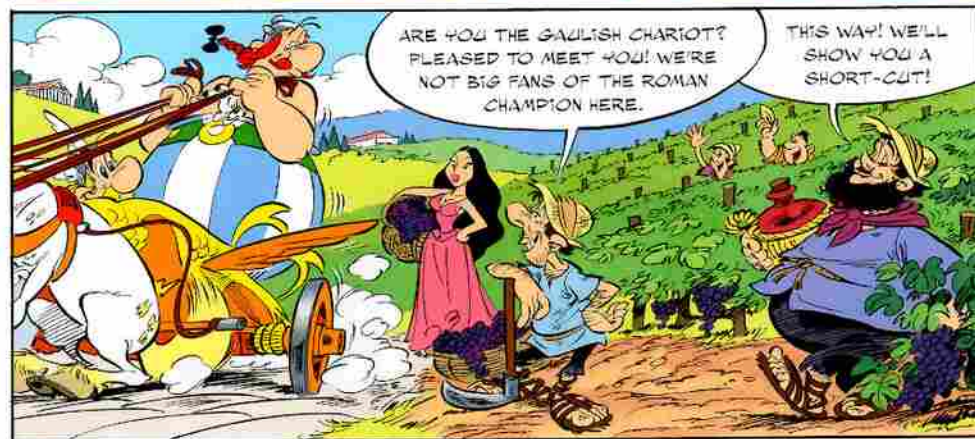
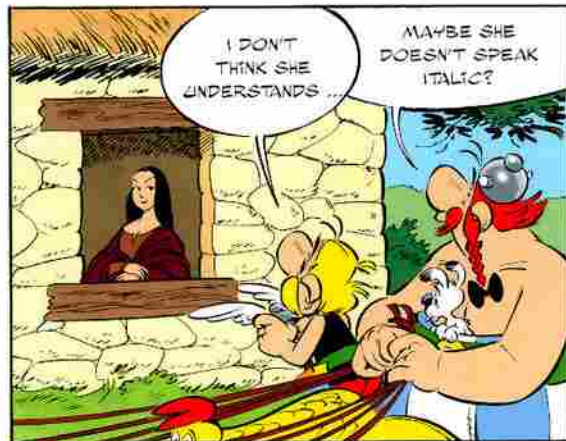




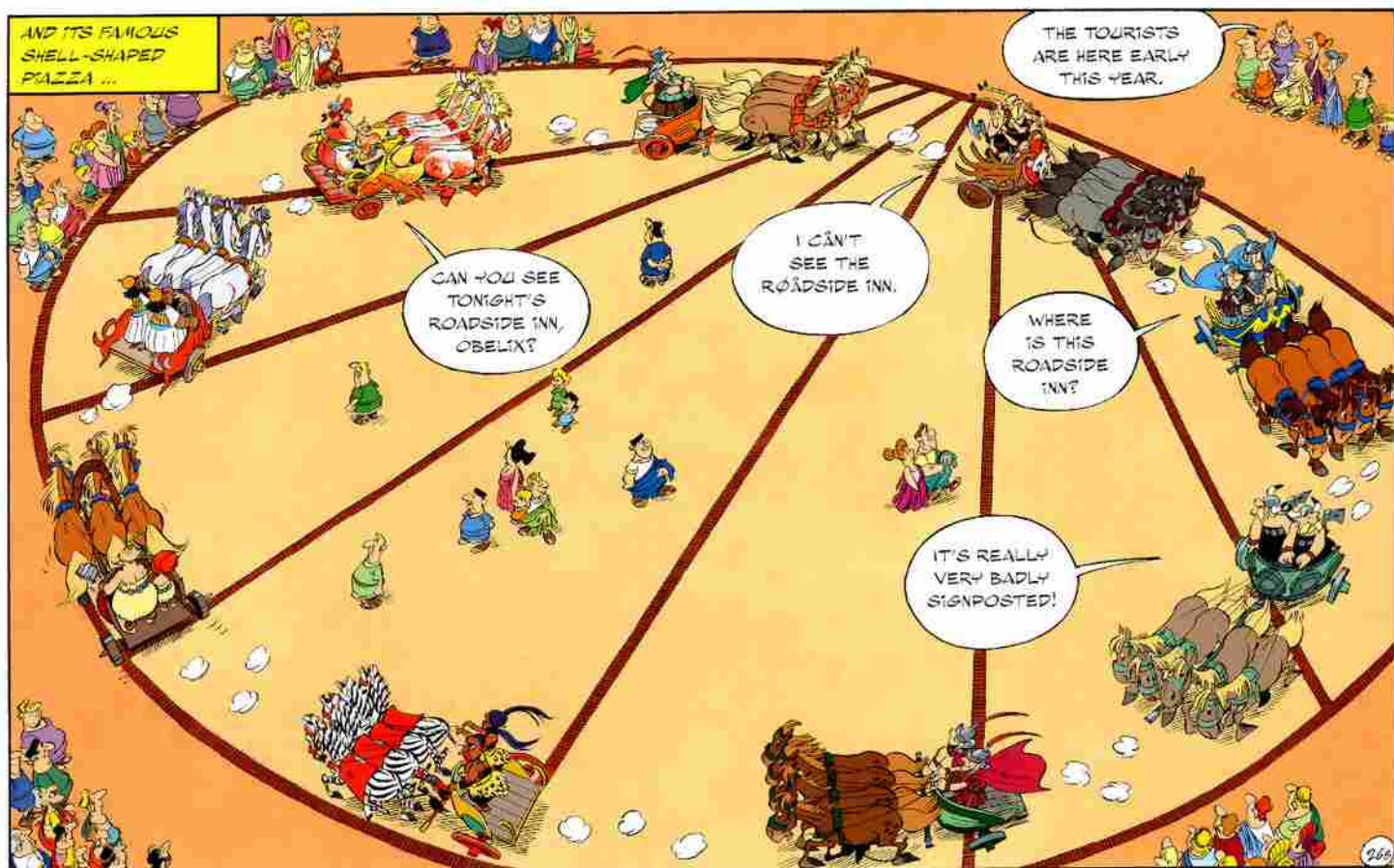


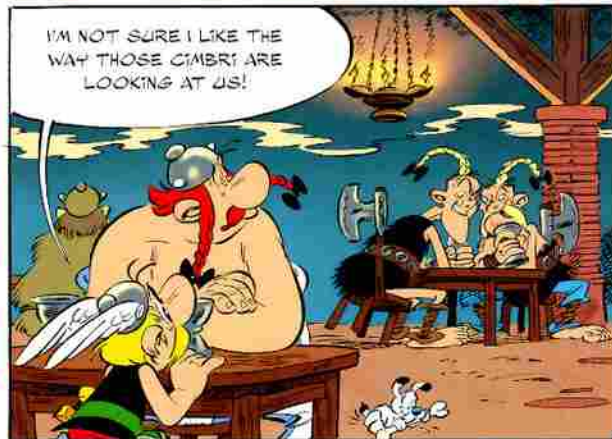
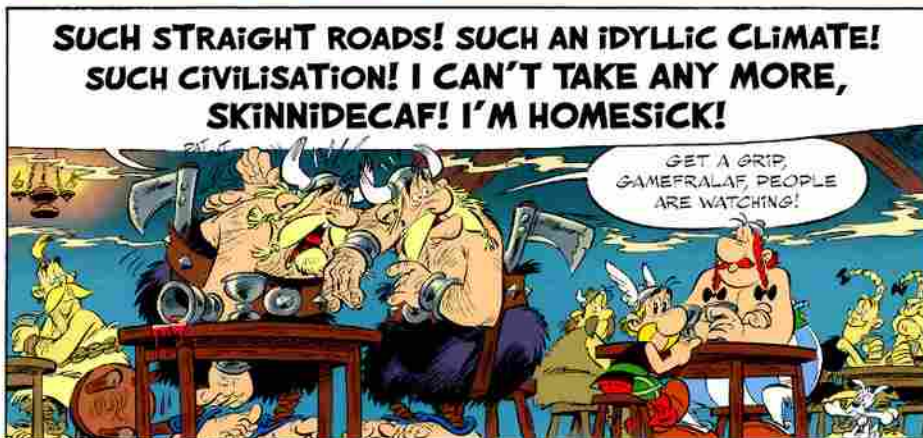






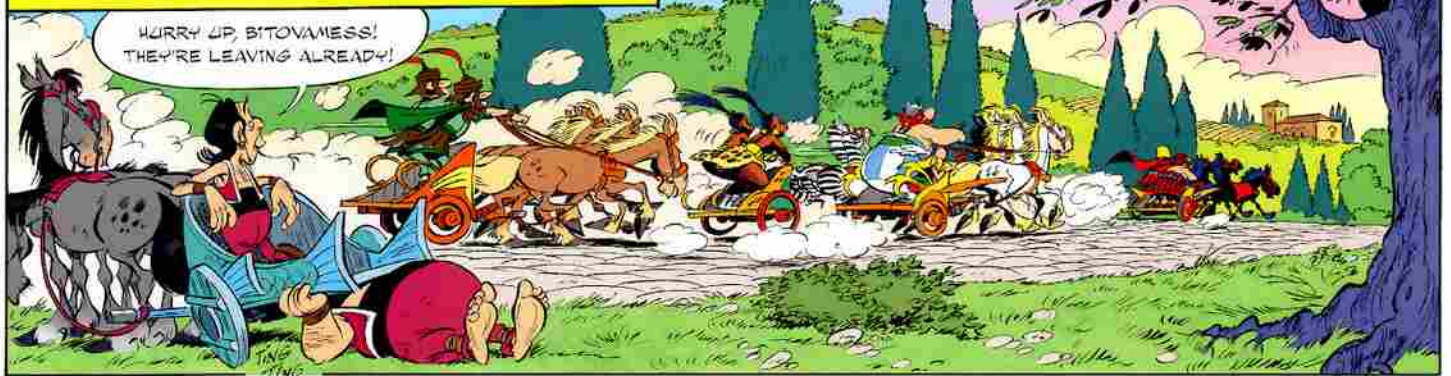








AND AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, THE RACE SETS OFF FROM SENA JULIA ON TO THE NEXT STAGE ...



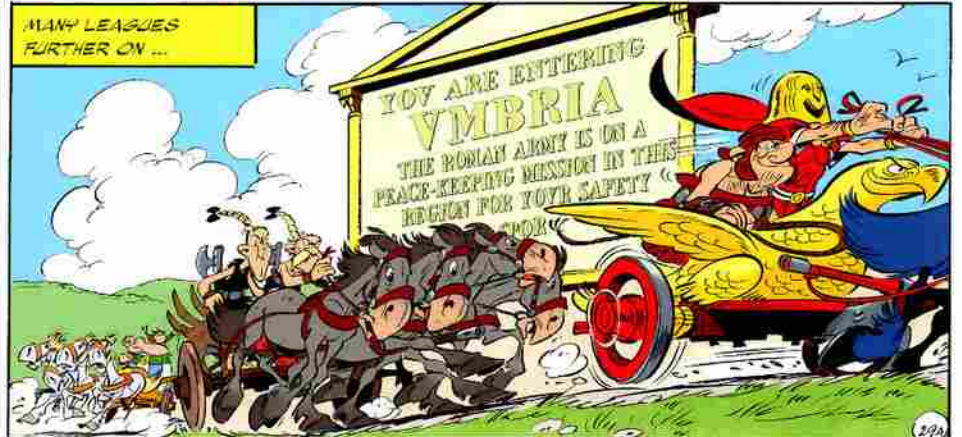
HURRY UP, BITOVAMESS!
THEY'RE LEAVING ALREADY!



WE'RE GOING
TO TIBUR*
NEAR ROME IN
LATIUM, VIA
UMBRIA!

ERM, SAY THAT
AGAIN!

* TIVOLI



MANY LEAGUES
FURTHER ON ...



**HALT!
ROADBLOCK!**



WE'RE ON MAXIMA ALERTA! WE
HAVE TO CHECK NO UMBRIAN
REBELS HAVE STOWED AWAY
WITH YOU!



NOW THAT YOU'VE LET YOUR
OWN CHAMPION THROUGH?
ARE YOU HAVING A LAUGH,
ROMAN?

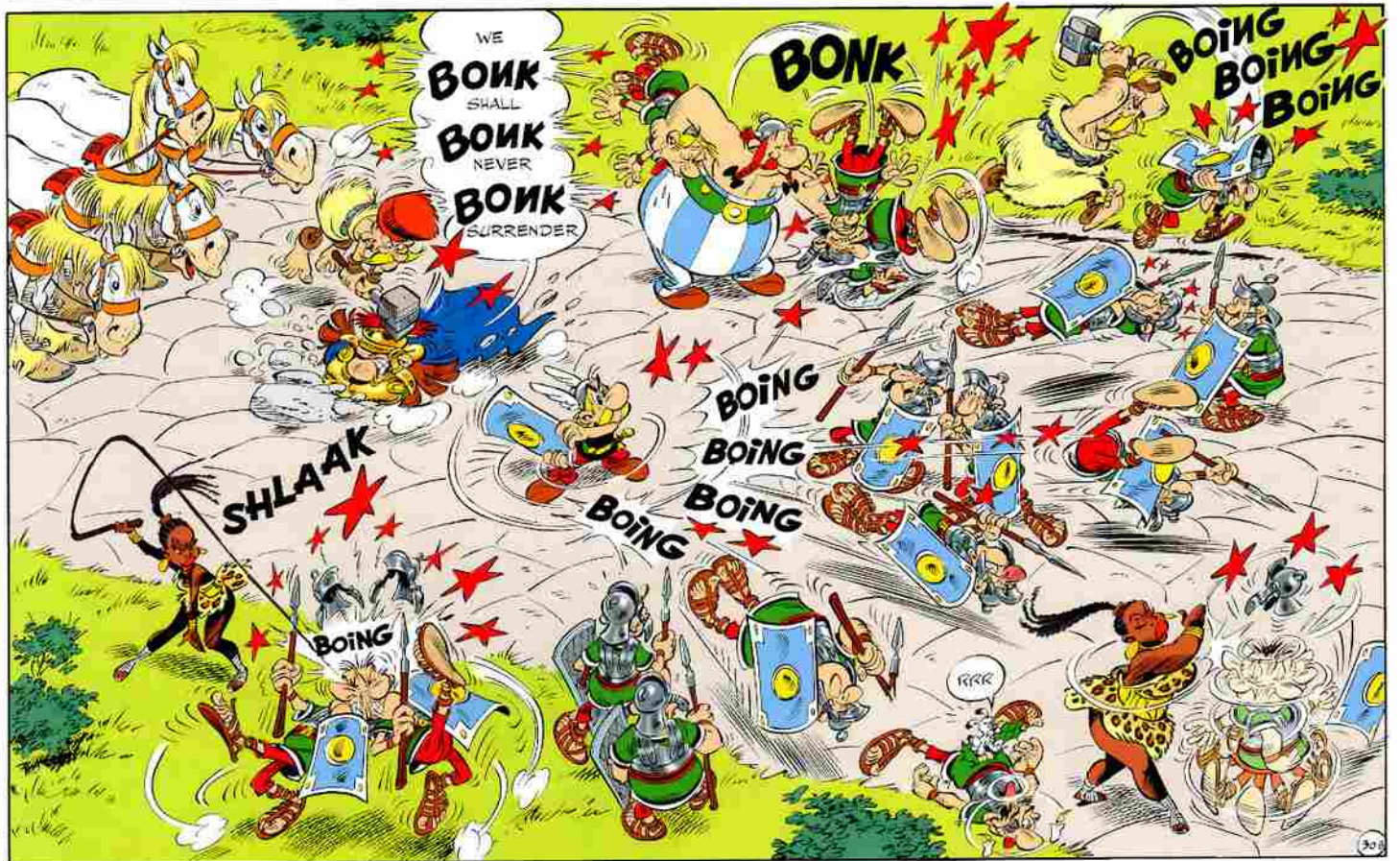


OOH! REAL
ROMANS LIKE THE
ONES IN GAUL!

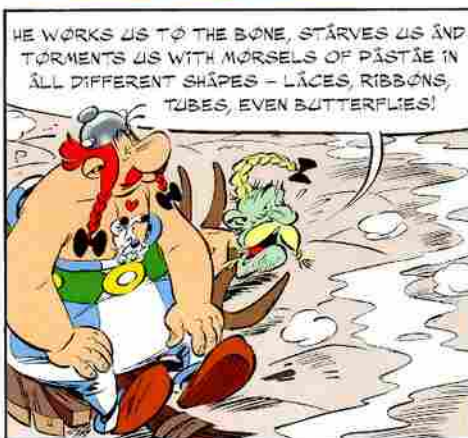
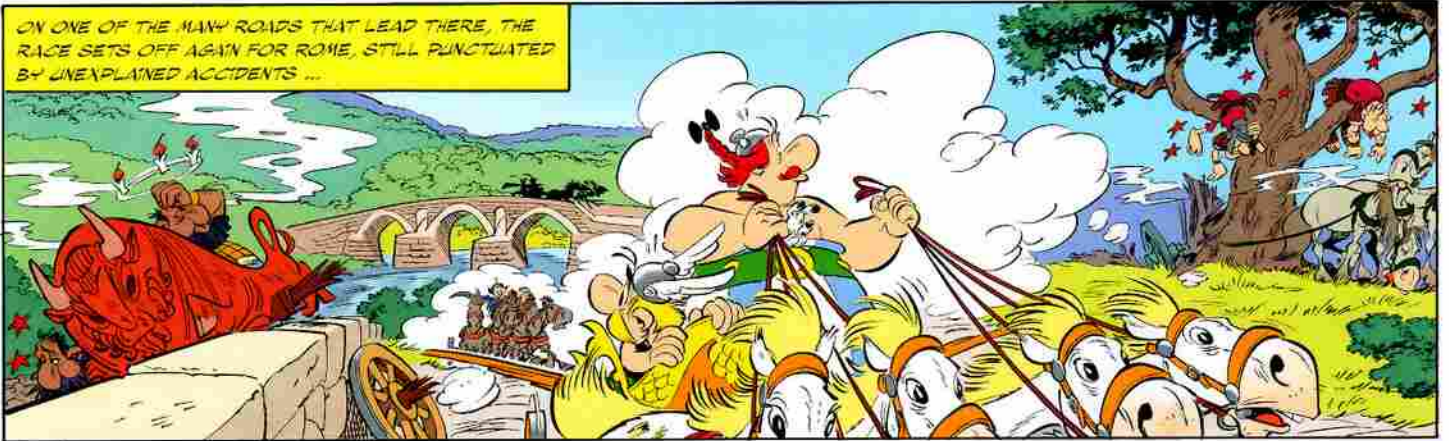
WHO DARES HINDER THE
GLORIOUS PROGRESS OF
THE SAMARTIANS?

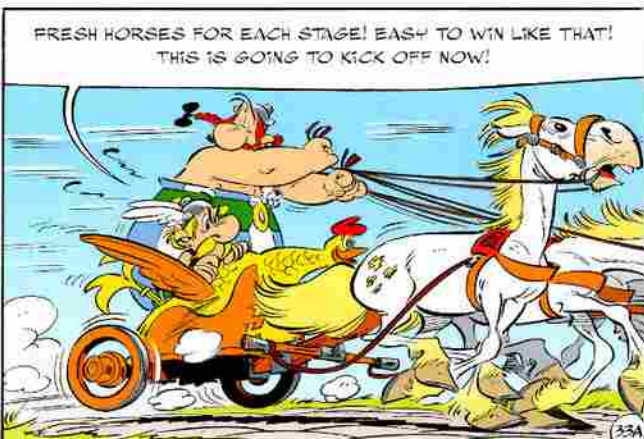
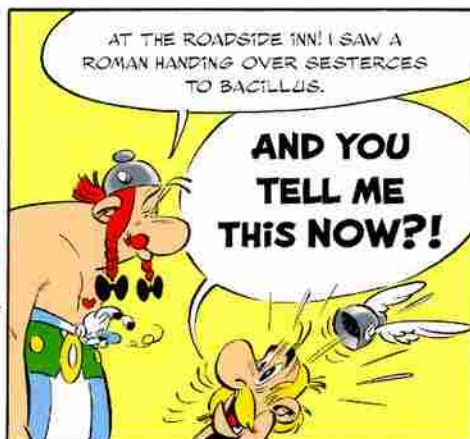
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

NO ARGUING! RACE OR NOT,
EVERYONE'S STOPPED
AND CHECKED!



ON ONE OF THE MANY ROADS THAT LEAD THERE, THE RACE SETS OFF AGAIN FOR ROME, STILL PUNCTUATED BY UNEXPLAINED ACCIDENTS ...





HE'S A GUEST OF SENATOR BIFIDUS, WHO HAS A SMALL HOLIDAY VILLA NOT FAR FROM HERE!



MY FRIENDS, THIS GLORIOUS RACE HAS MADE ME PERSONA GRATA AT THE SENATE. THANKS TO YOU, I'M BACK TO RUNNING THE SESTERCES FOR THE ROMAN ROADS AS I SEE FIT!

AND DE FACTO TO FUNDING YOUR OWN LIFESTYLE!



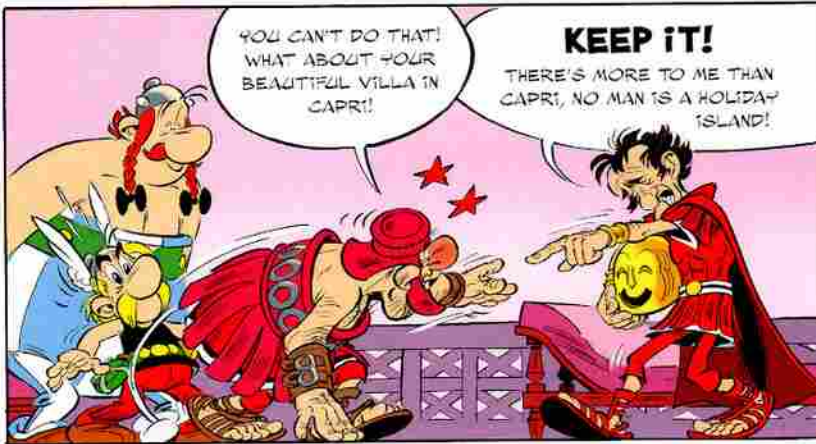
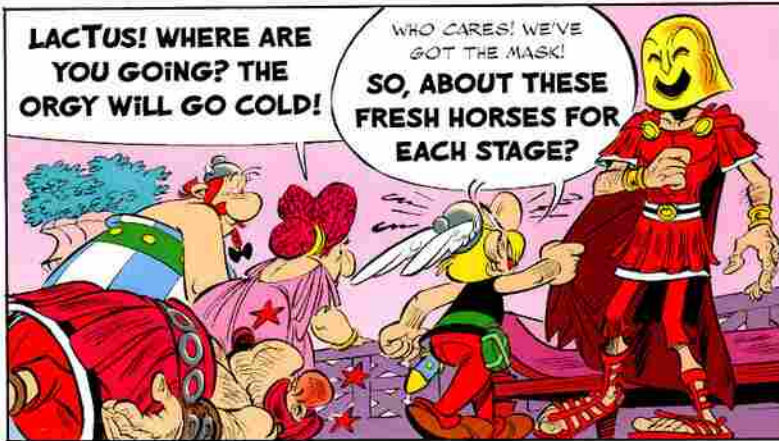
LACTUS, THE ORGY'S READY!

JUST COMING, MOZZARELLA!



HEY, YOU TWO! YOU CAN'T PARK OUTSIDE THE SENATOR'S VILLA!





SOME TIME LATER, IN ROME ...



A FAT CARROT-TOPPED GAUL WITH A LITTLE WHITE DOG AND A THIN LITTLE GAUL WITH A GREEN GOURD?



CAESAR SUDDENLY FEELS TIRED ...



IMPRISON THE GAULS? SO THE WHOLE OF ITALY CAN SAY CAESAR'S AFRAID AND IS FIXING THE RACE?!



DON'T PLAY THE INNOCENT! I KNOW WHAT YOUR GIMBRI ARE COOKING UP!

BUT, O GREAT CAESAR, IT WAS YOU YOURSELF WHO INSISTED THAT I ...

YOUR PLANS HAVE FAILED! AND YOU DARE TO ACCUSE CAESAR!



THANKS TO YOU, THIS RACE CONCEIVED TO ILLUSTRATE ROME'S BRILLIANCE WILL BE WON BY A BARBARIAN!



TO CYRENAICA!

I DON'T KNOW IT. WHAT'S IT LIKE?

ARID.



CAESAR NEEDS TO THINK. LEAVE HIM NOW, ACIDUS REFLUS.

SINE CURIS*

* NO WORRIES

MEANWHILE, AT THE ROADSIDE INN IN TIBUR, THE REMAINING CONTESTANTS ARE CELEBRATING THE MASKED CHAMPION'S WITHDRAWAL ...

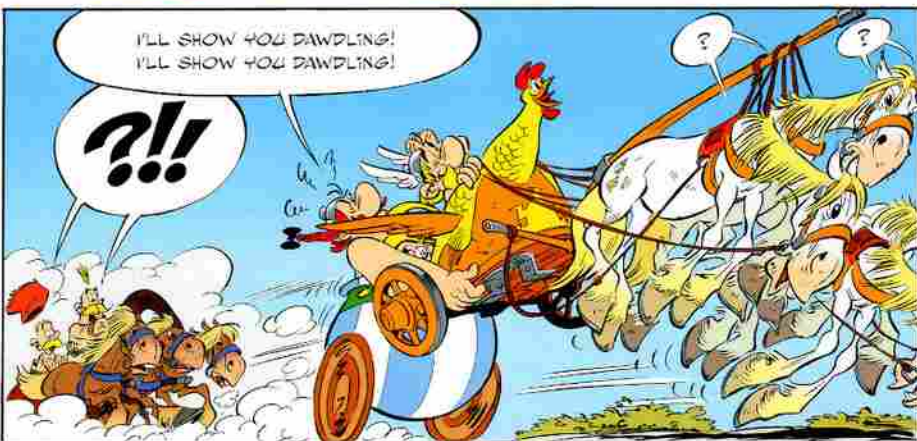


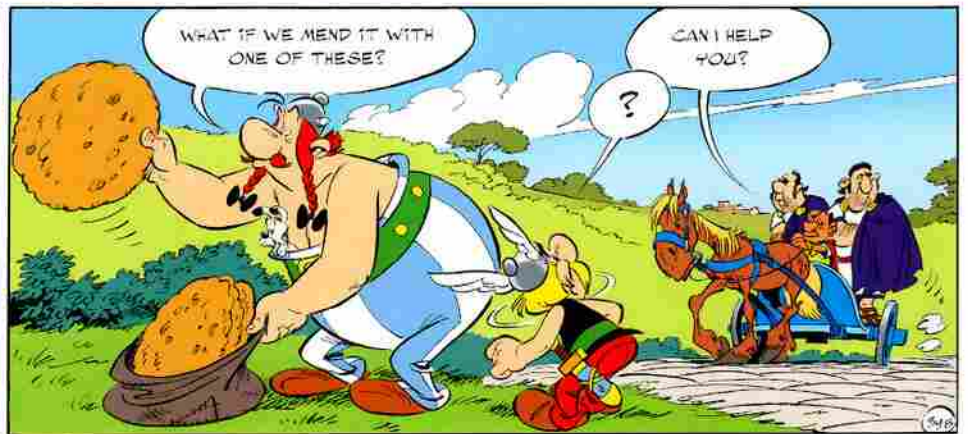
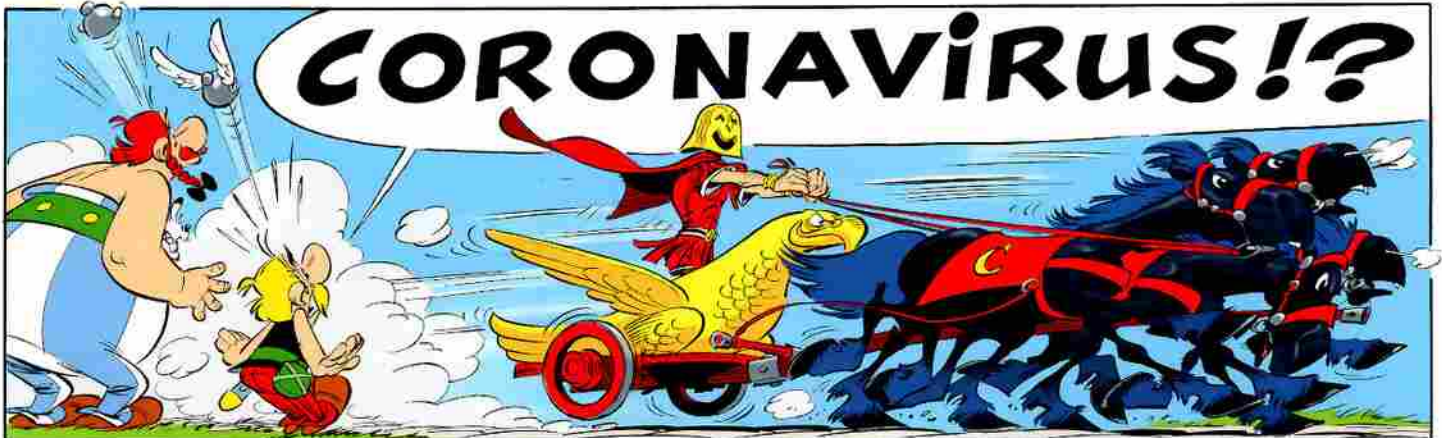
AURIGAE!
LET'S
CONTINUE
THE RACE
ON FAIR
TERMS! MAY
THE BEST
TEAM
WIN!

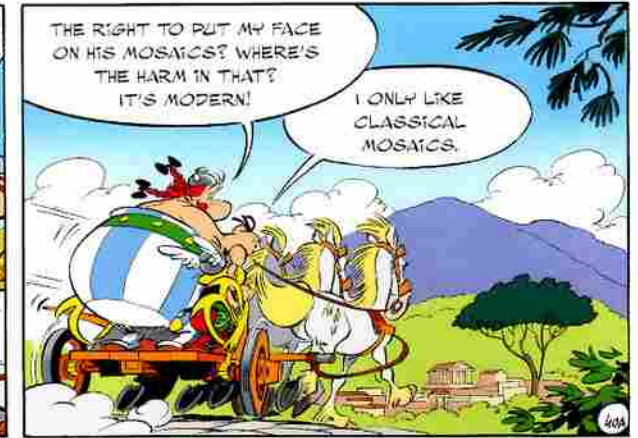


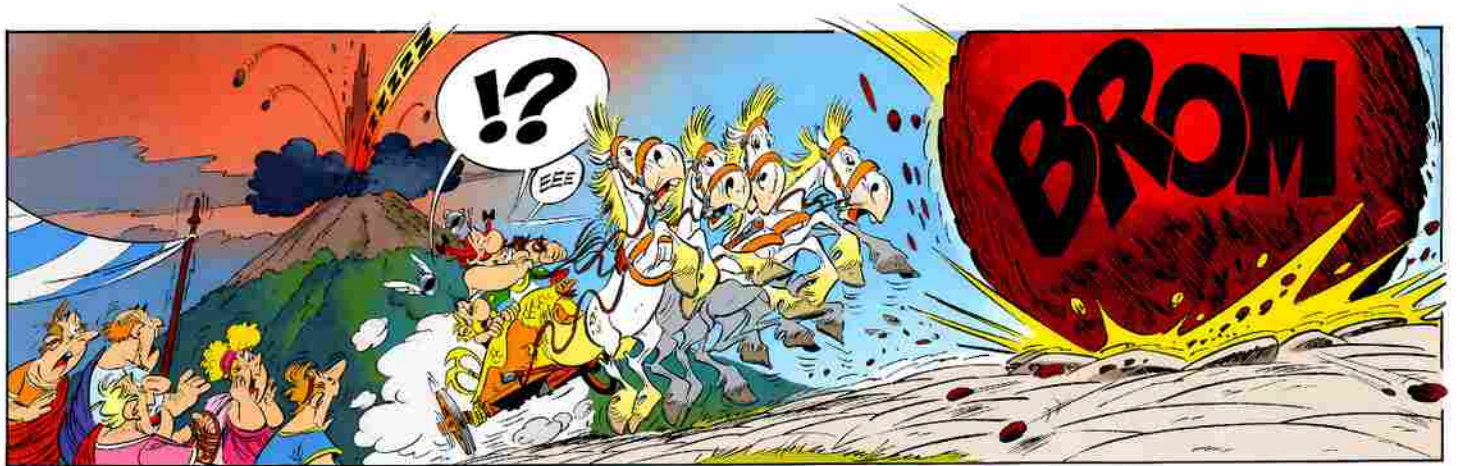
AND AS THE COCK CROWS THE CONTESTANTS RACE CHEERFULLY ALONG THE APPIAN WAY, HEADING FOR CAMPANIA, SOUTH OF ROME ...



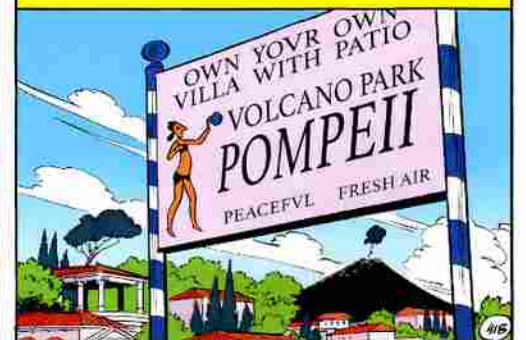




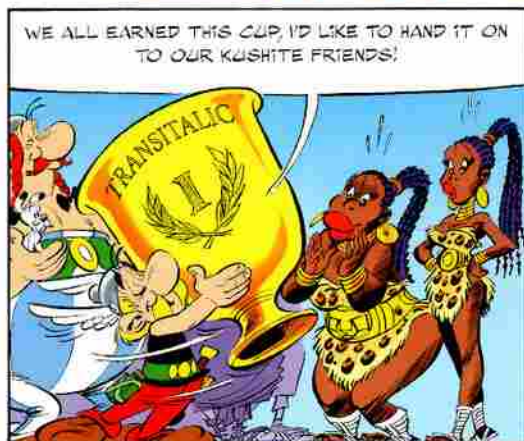


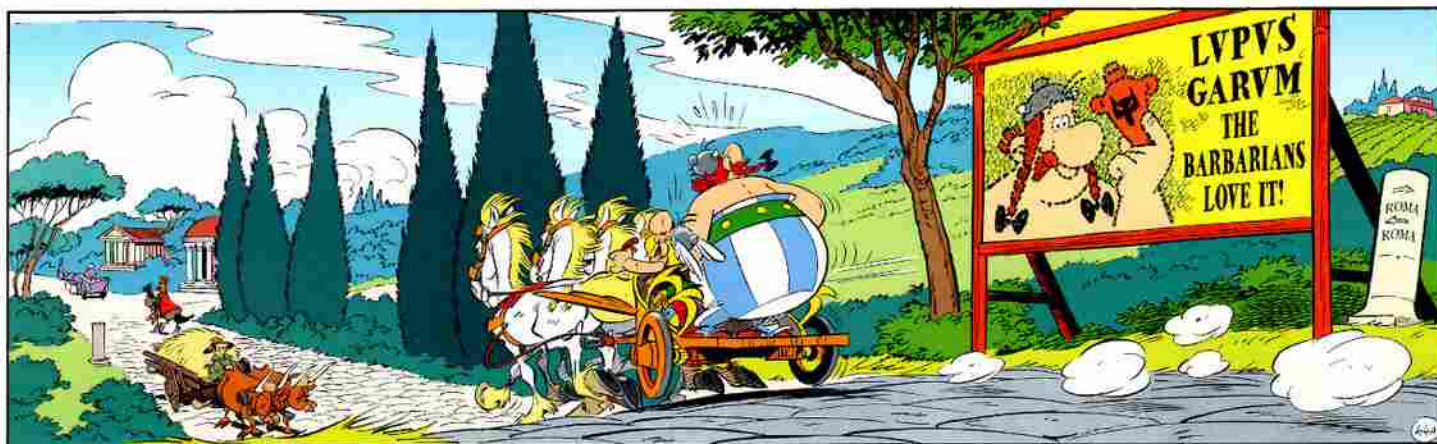


IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT OBELIX'S INTERVENTION AFFORDED THE VESUVIUS REGION A REASONABLY LONG PERIOD OF RESPIRE (UNTIL 79 AD).



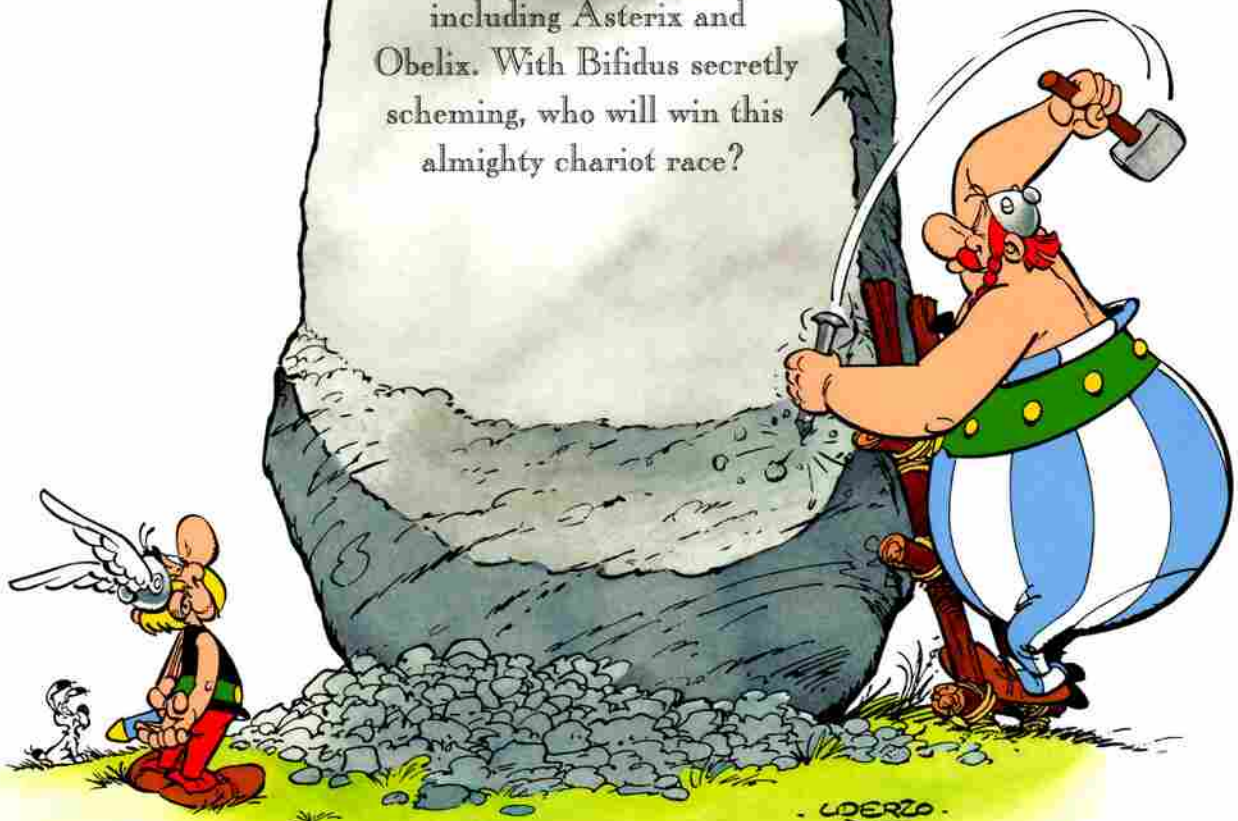






FERRI + CONRAD

The roads
across Italy
are in disrepair.
Defending his
name, and to prove
Rome's greatness,
Senator Lactus
Bifidus announces a
special one-off chariot
race. Julius Caesar
insists a Roman must
win, or Bifidus will pay.
Open to anyone from the
known world, competitors
arrive from far and wide,
including Asterix and
Obelix. With Bifidus secretly
scheming, who will win this
almighty chariot race?



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